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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/206,852	12/08/1998	RICHARD F. ALLISON	6550000028	6041

7380 7590 11/19/2003

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EXAMINER

GRUNBERG, ANNE MARIE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1661

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/206,852

Applicant(s)

ALLISON ET AL.

Examiner

Anne Marie Grunberg

Art Unit

1661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 1661.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections

Written Description

Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims that recite seeds and plants produced therefrom are not specified and adequately described in the specification and are rejected because the inventor was not in possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing. As such, all transgenic plants and seeds are claimed, however all possible seeds and moreover the plants that produce these seeds have not been adequately described in the specification. The specification only discloses a plant having been transformed by electrophoresis and not the possible progeny therefrom.

In analyzing whether the written description requirement is met for genus claims, it is first determined whether a representative number of species have been described by their complete structure. (It is not realistic to expect that the "complete structure" of a plant, or even a cell, could be described. Therefore the inquiry required by this portion of the written description guidelines is interpreted to be whether the phenotypes of the plant's progeny have been described). In this case, there are no disclosed embodiments representative of the enormous number of products claimed. The claims encompass progeny and seeds from every possible pollination/fertilization possibility. Plants have many phenotype traits, which vary independently, so millions of possible phenotypes are possible and the plants and seeds from all of these are claimed. The specification discloses no progeny plants and seeds, and can not describe the total population of progeny and seeds obtained from any number of possible crosses that are claimed. Next, then, it is determined whether a representative number of species have been sufficiently described by other relevant identifying characteristics. It is not possible to adequately describe the claimed products because there may be an infinite combination of parents that when crossed will provide such progeny. One skilled in the art would not have been able to predict all of the resulting phenotypes of plants that could possibly be produced. The limited disclosure in the specification is not deemed sufficient to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that Applicants were in possession of the huge genera recited in the claims at the time the application was filed. Thus it is concluded that the written description requirement is not satisfied for the claimed genera.

1. Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 9-11, 14, and 16 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Songstad et al; claims 1-2, 5-6, and 9-16 remain rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Burchi et al; and claims 1-16 remain rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchi et al in view of Ahokas et al for the reasons stated in the last office action.

Applicant argues that claim 1 is a method for producing transformed seed and none of the references teach this.

This argument has been carefully considered but is not considered persuasive for the following reasons:

The cited art teaches a method of transforming a plant. Songstad et al teach a method of transforming an embryo that grows into a plant. Burchi et al teach a method of producing transformed germinating seeds, embryos, bulblets, etc using the same method as taught by applicants. As a result, transformed plants are produced that produce transformed seed.

No claim is allowed.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

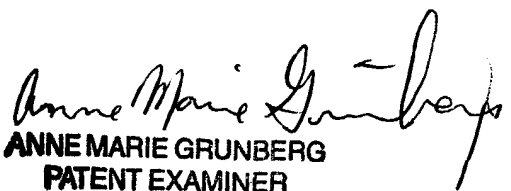
Art Unit: 1661

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anne Marie Grunberg whose telephone number is (703) 305-0805. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bruce Campell, can be reached on (703) 308-4205. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


ANNE MARIE GRUNBERG
PATENT EXAMINER